



Archaetnos Culture & Cultural
Resource Consultants
BK 98 09854/23

**A REPORT ON A CULTURAL HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW KHUNOTSWANA
RURAL VILLAGE LOCATED IN THE RAMOTSHERE MOILOA LOCAL
MUNICIPALITY, NORTHWEST PROVINCE**

For:

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On behalf of:

***Ramotshere Moiloa Local Municipality
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REPORT: **AE814**

by:

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SUMMARY

Archaetnos cc was requested by K2M Technologies to conduct a cultural heritage impact assessment for the proposed development of the new Khunotswana Rural Village Project, located in the Ramotshere Moiloa Local Municipality, near the town of Zeerust in the Northwest Province. A number of RDP-type houses will be developed here on individual stands.

The fieldwork undertaken revealed one sites and some objects of cultural heritage significance on the property. These will be impacted upon by the development, but this report is seen as ample mitigation measures in this regard.

The proposed development can therefore continue.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Archaetnos cc was requested by K2M Technologies to conduct a cultural heritage impact assessment for the proposed development of the new Khunotswana Rural Village Project, located in the Ramotshere Moiloa Local Municipality, near the town of Zeerust in the Northwest Province. A number of RDP-type houses will be developed here on individual stands.

The client indicated the area where the proposed development is to take place, and the survey was confined to this area.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Terms of Reference for the survey were to:

1. Identify all objects, sites, occurrences and structures of an archaeological or historical nature (cultural heritage sites) located on the property (see Appendix A).
2. Assess the significance of the cultural resources in terms of their archaeological, historical, scientific, social, religious, aesthetic and tourism value (see Appendix B).
3. Describe the possible impact of the proposed development on these cultural remains, according to a standard set of conventions.
4. Propose suitable mitigation measures to minimize possible negative impacts on the cultural resources.
5. Recommend suitable mitigation measures should there be any sites of significance that might be impacted upon by the proposed development.
6. Review applicable legislative requirements.

3. CONDITIONS & ASSUMPTIONS

The following conditions and assumptions have a direct bearing on the survey and the resulting report:

1. Cultural Resources are all non-physical and physical man-made occurrences, as well as natural occurrences associated with human activity. These include all sites, structure and artifacts of importance, either individually or in groups, in the history, architecture and archaeology of human (cultural) development. Graves and cemeteries are included in this.
2. The significance of the sites, structures and artifacts is determined by means of their historical, social, aesthetic, technological and scientific value in relation to their uniqueness, condition of preservation and research potential. The various aspects are

not mutually exclusive, and the evaluation of any site is done with reference to any number of these aspects.

3. Cultural significance is site-specific and relates to the content and context of the site. Sites regarded as having low cultural significance have already been recorded in full and require no further mitigation. Sites with medium cultural significance may or may not require mitigation depending on other factors such as the significance of impact on the site. Sites with a high cultural significance require further mitigation (see Appendix B).
4. The latitude and longitude of any archaeological or historical site or feature, is to be treated as sensitive information by the developer and should not be disclosed to members of the public.
5. All recommendations are made with full cognizance of the relevant legislation.
6. It has to be mentioned that it is almost impossible to locate all the cultural resources in a given area, as it will be very time consuming. Developers should however note that the report should make it clear how to handle any other finds that might occur.

4. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Aspects concerning the conservation of cultural resources are dealt with mainly in two acts. These are the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) and the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998).

4.1 The National Heritage Resources Act

According to the above-mentioned law the following is protected as cultural heritage resources:

- a. Archaeological artifacts, structures and sites older than 100 years
- b. Ethnographic art objects (e.g. prehistoric rock art) and ethnography
- c. Objects of decorative and visual arts
- d. Military objects, structures and sites older than 75 years
- e. Historical objects, structures and sites older than 60 years
- f. Proclaimed heritage sites
- g. Grave yards and graves older than 60 years
- h. Meteorites and fossils
- i. Objects, structures and sites of scientific or technological value.

Archaeology, palaeontology and meteorites

Section 35(4) of this act states that no person may, without a permit issued by the responsible heritage resources authority:

- a. destroy, damage, excavate, alter, deface or otherwise disturb any archaeological or palaeontological site or any meteorite;

- b. destroy, damage, excavate, remove from its original position, collect or own any archaeological or palaeontological material or object or any meteorite;
- c. trade in, sell for private gain, export or attempt to export from the Republic any category of archaeological or palaeontological material or object, or any meteorite; or
- d. bring onto or use at an archaeological or palaeontological site any excavation equipment or any equipment that assists in the detection or recovery of metals or archaeological and palaeontological material or objects, or use such equipment for the recovery of meteorites.
- e. alter or demolish any structure or part of a structure which is older than 60 years as protected.

The above mentioned may only be disturbed or moved by an archaeologist, after receiving a permit from the South African Heritage Resources Agency.

Human remains

In terms of Section 36(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act, no person may, without a permit issued by the relevant heritage resources authority:

- a. destroy, damage, alter, exhume or remove from its original position of otherwise disturb the grave of a victim of conflict, or any burial ground or part thereof which contains such graves;
- b. destroy, damage, alter, exhume or remove from its original position or otherwise disturb any grave or burial ground older than 60 years which is situated outside a formal cemetery administered by a local authority; or
- c. bring onto or use at a burial ground or grave referred to in paragraph (a) or (b) any excavation, or any equipment which assists in the detection or recovery of metals.

Human remains that are less than 60 years old are subject to provisions of the Human Tissue Act (Act 65 of 1983) and to local regulations. Exhumation of graves must conform to the standards set out in the **Ordinance on Excavations (Ordinance no. 12 of 1980)** (replacing the old Transvaal Ordinance no. 7 of 1925).

Permission must also be gained from the descendants (where known), the National Department of Health, Provincial Department of Health, Premier of the Province and local police. Furthermore, permission must also be gained from the various landowners (i.e. where the graves are located and where they are to be relocated) before exhumation can take place.

Human remains can only be handled by a registered undertaker or an institution declared under the **Human Tissues Act (Act 65 of 1983 as amended)**.

Unidentified/unknown graves are also handled as older than 60 until proven otherwise.

4.2 The National Environmental Management Act

This act states that a survey and evaluation of cultural resources must be done in areas where development projects, that will change the face of the environment, will be undertaken. The impact of the development on these resources should be determined and proposals for the mitigation thereof are made.

5. METHODOLOGY

5.1 Survey of literature

A survey of literature was undertaken in order to obtain background information regarding the area. Sources consulted in this regard are indicated in the bibliography.

5.2 Field survey

The survey was conducted according to generally accepted HIA practices and was aimed at locating all possible objects, sites and features of cultural significance in the area of proposed development. If required, the location/position of any site was determined by means of a Global Positioning System (GPS), while photographs were also taken where needed.

The survey was undertaken on foot.

5.3 Documentation

All sites, objects features and structures identified were documented according to the general minimum standards accepted by the archaeological profession. Co-ordinates of individual localities were determined by means of the Global Positioning System (GPS).The information was added to the description in order to facilitate the identification of each locality.

6. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

The proposed development area is located in the Ramotshere Moiloa Local Municipality area of the Northwest Province. It is situated northwest of the town of Zeerust and northeast of the town of Mafikeng (Figure 1). The development entails some RDP-type houses, each on their own individual stand.

The area where the development is to take place is an open area on a plateau between the hills. The area has been utilized for grazing, but no signs of overgrazing were noted. No evidence of disturbance by ploughing could be seen. The general topography of the area is flat (Figure 2-3), with low rocky outcrops situated in the development area.

The vegetation consists of grass, with small bushes especially associated with the rocky outcrops. No large trees are visible.

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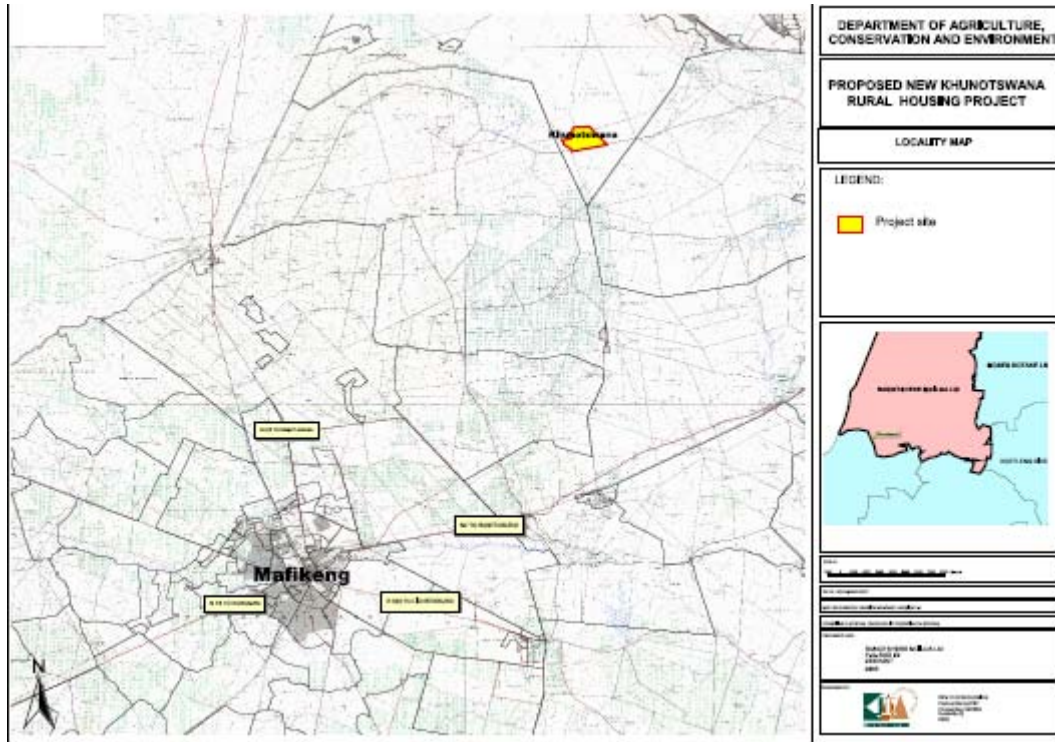


Figure 1 Locality map indicating the surveyed area.



Figure 2 General view of the surveyed area.



Figure 3 General view of the surveyed area showing low bushes and a rocky outcrop. The houses in the back are just outside of the investigated area.

7. DISCUSSION

During the survey one site of cultural heritage significance were located on the property. Some objects of cultural significance were also found. Although these will be impacted upon by the development, this report is seen as ample mitigation measures in this regard.

In order to enable the reader to better understand these objects, it is necessary to give a background regarding the different phases of human history. The found objects will be integrated with this discussion.

7.1 Stone Age

The Stone Age is the period in human history when lithic material was mainly used to produce tools (Coertze & Coertze 1996: 293). In South Africa the Stone Age can be divided in three periods. It is however important to note that dates are relative and only provide a broad framework for interpretation. The division for the Stone Age according to Korsman & Meyer (1999: 93-94) is as follows:

Early Stone Age (ESA) 2 million – 150 000 years ago
Middle Stone Age (MSA) 150 000 – 30 000 years ago

Late Stone Age (LSA) 40 000 years ago – 1850 - A.D.

The only Stone Age site that has been documented in this area is one of a rock engraving, west of the town of Zeerust (Bergh 1999: 5). The low rocky outcrops in the area are a typical place to find Stone Age material. The one site found, indeed was located on such an outcrop. The area does not contain shelters or any other indication of living areas. One can therefore assume that Stone Age people would have stayed somewhere in the hills and would have passed this area during their hunting and gathering activities.

Loose objects found during the survey also date to the Stone Age. This included some Middle Stone Age material and a very fine Late Stone Age core (Figure 4). A core is a piece of stone from which flakes are struck in order to use the latter as stone tools. The material used differs from that of the natural rock and it is therefore believed that these were brought in from outside of the area, probably because it is good material to make stone tools from. It is therefore clear that the area had been used by Stone Age people.



Figure 4 Late Stone Age core used for the manufacturing of lithic tools.

7.2 Iron Age

The Iron Age is the name given to the period of human history when metal was mainly used to produce artifacts (Coertze & Coertze 1996: 346). In South Africa it can be divided in two separate phases according to Van der Ryst & Meyer (1999: 96-98), namely:

Early Iron Age (EIA) 200 – 1000 A.D.

Late Iron Age (LIA) 1000 – 1850 A.D.

Huffman (2007: xiii) however indicates that a Middle Iron Age should be included. His dates, which now seem to be widely accepted in archaeological circles, are:

Early Iron Age (EIA) 250 – 900 A.D.

Middle Iron Age (MIA) 900 – 1300 A.D.

Late Iron Age (LIA) 1300 – 1840 A.D.

Previous research indicates that Iron Age sites have been identified in the area around Zeerust. In a band stretching roughly from Brits in the east to Zeerust in the west many Iron Age sites have been discovered previously (Bergh 1999: 7). These all belong to the Later Iron Age and include the important site of Kaditshwene. In the Dwarsberg Mountain, to the north of the surveyed area (Bergh 1999: 8-9).

During earlier times the area was inhabited by a Tswana group, the Kgatla. In the 19th century another Tswana group, the Hurutshe, inhabited the area (Bergh 1999: 9-10). During the Difaquane these people moved further to the west into what is today known as Botswana. They returned later on (Bergh 1999: 11).

However no indication of Iron Age people was found during the survey.

7.3 Historical Age

The historical age started with the first recorded oral histories in the area. It includes the moving into the area of people that were able to read and write. Early travelers have moved through Northwest and Botswana. The Zeerust area was visited by Dr Andrew Cowan and Lieutenant Donovan as early as 1808 during an expedition on which they also traveled through Lobatse (Bergh 1999: 12, 117). Coenraad de Buys moved through the area in 1821 and 1825 (Bergh 1999: 12).

In 1825 the trader David Hume traveled through this area. The politician Centlivres Chase and his neighbor James Collins also moved through this area in 1825 on a trade mission. The well known Andrew Geddes Bain and John Biddulph moved through this area in 1826 (Bergh 1999: 12, 119).

The missionary John Campbell visited Kaditshwene in 1820 (Bergh 1999: 118). This was followed by the travelers Robert Scoon and William McLuckie in 1827 and 1829. After being invited by Mzilikazi, Dr Robert Moffat and James Archbell came to the area in 1829 (Bergh 1999: 12, 119).

After this the area was visited by a group of hunters lead by Piet Meyer and Hans Dons de Lange in 1830 (Bergh 1999: 13, 119). In 1830, 1832 and 1833 Hume again visited the area

(Bergh 1999: 13, 121). This was followed by Captain William Cornwallis Harris in 1836. Between 1841 and 1847 Dr David Livingstone moved through the area just west and north of Zeerust (Bergh 1999: 13, 122-123).

The Voortrekkers moved into this area in the 1830's (Bergh 1999: 14). On 17 January 1837 the Battle of Mosega between the Voortrekkers and Mzilikazi occurred, just south of Zeerust (Bergh 1999: 14, 126). The country around Zeerust was inhabited by white farmers between 1841 and 1850 (Bergh 1999: 15).

No sites from this era were found during the survey.

7.4 Discussion of sites identified during the survey

Site 1

On one of the low rocky outcrops a small site used for the manufacturing of stone tools were identified.

GPS: 25°34'19"S
25°50'32"E

The site consists of a few Late Stone Age tools and cores (Figure 5) and it is clear that one or two people sat here to manufacture tools. Very few tools and flakes are found indicating that this probably was a once of occurrence. No archaeological deposit was identified as this is on top of rocks. The material used is volcanic rock, similar to those found in abundance in the area.



Figure 5 Late Stone Age tools from site no 1.

The cultural significance of the site is **low**. The stone tools are typical and not the best examples of tools from this period in time. It is also clear that it was a once of occurrence.

The development will have a direct impact on this site. This report is however seen as ample documentation thereof and no other mitigation measures are necessary. It is not necessary to obtain a destruction permit from the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA).

8. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In conclusion it can be stated that the assessment of the area was conducted successfully. Although some cultural heritage sites and objects were identified, none of them are highly significant. The final recommendations therefore are as follows:

- This report is seen as ample mitigation for the one site and other cultural objects found during the survey.
- The development can continue.
- It should however be noted that the subterranean presence of archaeological and/or historical sites, features or artifacts are always a distinct possibility. Care should therefore be taken when development work commences that if any of these are accidentally discovered, a qualified archaeologist be called in to investigate.

9. REFERENCES

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APPENDIX A

Definition of terms:

Site: A large place with extensive structures and related cultural objects. It can also be a large assemblage of cultural artifacts, found on a single location.

Structure: A permanent building found in isolation or which forms a site in conjunction with other structures.

Feature: A coincidental find of movable cultural objects.

Object: Artifact (cultural object).

(Also see Knudson 1978: 20).

APPENDIX B

Cultural significance:

- Low A cultural object being found out of context, not being part of a site or without any related feature/structure in its surroundings.

- Medium Any site, structure or feature being regarded less important due to a number of factors, such as date and frequency. Also any important object found out of context.

- High Any site, structure or feature regarded as important because of its age or uniqueness. Graves are always categorized as of a high importance. Also any important object found within a specific context.